

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01731 230918Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----230921Z 002949 /13

O 230829Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4444

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1731

EXDIS

LUSAKA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SU, US, SO

SUBJECT: US-SOMALI AND US-SUDAN RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 1567

SUMMARY: ACCORDING MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG, SAID BARRE
RELUCTANT MOVE RAPIDLY AWAY FROM SOVIETS BECAUSE HE
DOUBTS USG CAN RESPOND ADEQUATELY TO HIS FELT
NEED PROVIDE EQUIVALENT SUPPORT. BELIEVE SUDAN LEADERS
WILL WISH DISCUSS US-SOMALI RELATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR
YOUNG. THEY PROBABLY ALSO WOULD LIKE FIRMER EXPRESSION
USG POLITICAL SUPPORT, AND YOUNG VISIT MAY BE
APPROPRIATE TIME TO ADVISE SUDANESE THAT WE ATTACHING
GREATER IMPORTANCE TO SUDAN IN CONTEXT REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 KHARTO 01731 230918Z

1. BRIEFED MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S
ARMS SALES POLICY STATEMENT SUNDAY MAY 22 AND FOLLOWING
MY PRESENTATION HE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TELL ME OF HIS
MEETING FEW DAYS BEFORE WITH SIAD BARRE. MEETING
HAD TO BE CUT SHORT SO WE BOTH COULD LEAVE ATTEND
NIMEIRI'S INAUGURATION HILTON HOTEL, BUT DENG HAD
TIME MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. RECALLING MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR BREWER MAY 6 REGARDING POSSIBLE REASONS BEHIND SAID BARRE'S FAILURE MEET WITH AMBASSADOR LOUGHREN (REFTEL), DENG SAID HE DISCUSSED US-SOMALI RELATIONS WITH GSDR LEADER. THIS WAS DONE DURING MEETING IN WHICH DENG CONTINUED SUDANESE EFFORTS EXPLAIN CONCERN HERE OVER SOVIET SUPPORT FOR LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA AND WIDER ARAB CONCERN OVER SOVIET DESIGNS IN AFRICA.

3. DENG SAID SAID BARRE ALSO CONCERNED OVER SOVIET ACTIVITIES AND HE COULD APPRECIATE SUDANESE/ARAB VIEWS. HOWEVER, HE UNWILLING DROP SOVIETS WITHOUT ASSURANCE OTHERS WILL PROVIDE EQUIVALENT ASSISTANCE FOR SOMALIA. ACCORDING DENG, SAID BARRE SAID TO HIM, IF ALL US CAN DO FOR SUDAN IS PROVIDE FEW C-130S AFTER LENGTHS TO WHICH SUDANGOV HAS GONE TO SHOW FRIENDSHIP FOR US, THEN WHAT CAN SOMALIA EXPECT. IN SHORT, SAID BARRE SEES USG SO RELUCTANT MAKE MEANINGFUL MOVE TOWARD GSDR HE HESITANT MOVE TOO FAST AWAY FROM SOVIETS.

4. DENG SAID HE EXPLAINED USG NEED OF CAUTION FOLLOWING VIETNAM EXPERIENCE. HE ALSO EXPLAINED CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS WHICH MUST BE OBSERVED IN US WHICH, PERFORCE, SLOW ANY US RESPONSE. HE ALSO ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH SUDAN SEEKING US ARMS, IT NOT LIMITING ITSELF TO THIS ONE SOURCE. FYI THIS POINT BEING MADE PUBLICLY BY TOP SUDANGOV LEADERS. END FYI.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KHARTO 01731 230918Z

DENG ADDED HE FEARS SAID BARRE MAY MOVE AGAINST ETHIOPIA IN NEAR FUTURE SINCE SOMALIA PRESENTLY STRONG MILITARILY BUT AS TIME GOES BY SOVIETS WILL STRENGTHEN ETHIOPIANS AND SOMALI RELATIVE ADVANTAGE WILL DIMINISH.

5. COMMENT: TIME DID NOT PERMIT ME TO RESPOND AT ALL TO DENG'S REMARKS, BUT BELIEVE HE MAY WISH DISCUSS US ATTITUDE TOWARD SOMALIA FURTHER. NO DOUBT THIS SUBJECT WILL ARISE DURING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT HERE. PROBABLY WOULD BE HELPFUL HAVE TALKING POINTS WHICH AMBASSADOR YOUNG COULD USE, IF HE DOES NOT HAVE THEM ALREADY.

6. DENG IS WELL AWARE OF LIMITATIONS ON USG IN REPLACING SOVIETS AS PRINCIPAL ARMS SUPPLIERS TO SOMALIA. HOWEVER, HE MADE POINT, WHICH OTHER SUDANESE OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO MADE RECENTLY, THAT WITH SOVIETS BEHIND SUDAN'S TWO PRINCIPAL ANTAGONISTS, THIOPIA AND

LIBYA, ONLY WAY SUDANGOV CAN MEET THIS THREAT IS WITH EQUIVALENT SUPPORT FROM SOMEONE ELSE. WHILE SUDANGOV WILL SEEK SUPPORT FROM EUROPEANS, WEALTHY ARAB AND CHINESE, IT CLEARLY WILL WANT MORE EXPLICIT AND PERHAPS MORE PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM USG AS WELL. WHILE SUDANESE LEADERSHIP WOULD BE PLEASED SEE GREATER US SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT FOR THEM OF COURSE IS TO BE ASSURED OF US SUPPORT FOR SUDAN ITSELF.

7. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE SUDANGOV DESIRE FOR POSITIVE US RESPONSE TO ITS OVERTURES OVER LAST YEAR NOT NEW. MOREOVER, NIMEIRI AND OTHERS MADE CLEAR TO AMBASSADOR BREWER AT TIME HIS DEPARTURE THEIR GENERAL SATISFACTION CURRENT SATE US-SUDAN RELATIONS. HOWEVER, I THINK THEY DO FEEL SOMEWHAT EXPOSED AFTER THEIR EXPULSION SOVIETS AND AS SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA AND LIBYA HAS GAINED MOMENTUM. FOR VARIOUS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 KHARTO 01731 230918Z

PRACTICAL REASONS, WE HAVE HAD TO BE SLOW OR LIMITED IN RESPONDING TO SUDANESE REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, USG HAS, IN FACT, DECIDED ATTACH GREATER IMPORTANCE TO SUDAN AS REGIONAL SITUATION HAS EVOLVED OVER LAST SIX MONTHS OR SO. AS FAR AS I KNOW, WE HAVE NOT YET TOLD THIS TO SUDANGOV, AND I RECOGNIZE THERE MAY BE MANY REASONS NOT TO DO SO. HOWEVER, BELIEVE SUDANGOV WOULD BE COMFORTED BY QUIET EXPRESSION US POLITICAL SUPPORT IF IT COULD BE MADE NOW, AND DEPARTMENT MAY WISH AUTHORIZE AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO DO SO DURING HIS VISIT HERE. IF THAT NOT POSSIBLE, PERHAPS I COULD DO SO IN NEAR FUTURE.

8. JUST PRIOR SENDING ABOVE WE RECEIVED STATE 117423 CONTAINING PRESIDENCE CARTER'S MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO NIMEIRI ON HIS REELECTION AND INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT. BELIEVE IT STRIKES JUST RIGHT TONE IN LIGHT ABOVE DISCUSSION. BOGOSIAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO01731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770182-1158
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770529/aaaaaytp.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8fc1bf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 KHARTOUM 1567
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2409945
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SOMALI AND US-SUDAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SU, US, SO, UR, (DENG, FRANCIS), (MOHAMED SIAD BARRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8fc1bf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009